

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

**Ladong (La-tung) Probable
Cruise Missile Depot South
Under Construction, PRC**

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**IAN-A017/79
AUGUST 1979
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LADONG (LA-TUNG) PROBABLE CRUISE MISSILE DEPOT SOUTH UNDER CONSTRUCTION, PRC (TSR)

1. (TSR) A new probable cruise missile (CM) depot, Ladong (La-tung) Probable Cruise Missile Depot South [] was identified under construction on imagery of [] 2.8 nautical miles (nm) south of Ladong in the southern portion of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

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2. (TSR) The probable depot (Figure 1) is at 24-44-30N 109-33-50E in mountainous terrain, 2 nm east of the Ladong Cruise Missile Depot []. It is adjacent to a probable storage facility and an unidentified probable military area. The new probable depot consists of ten drive-in adits; four large open-bay storage buildings under construction; a foundation outline for a probable missile checkout building; and 29 barracks/administration, support, and construction-support buildings. The probable depot is adjacent to the rail-to-road transfer point (RTP) associated with the Ladong CM Depot which serves the South Sea Fleet and where STYX CM crates have been seen routinely since 1971. The adits and the outline of the probable missile checkout building at the new depot bear a strong resemblance to the adits and buildings at Shangrao (Shang-jao) Cruise Missile Depot [], the East Sea Fleet's CM depot which was completed in 1976. Construction of the probable depot was started between []

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[] The construction was unidentified until extension of the Ladong RTP was observed and buildings and adit construction had progressed sufficiently to provide a probable CM association.

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3. (TSR) Each of the three fleet areas in the PRC is served by a CM depot. Both the North and East Sea Fleet's depots have been expanded or relocated to a new facility within the past three years. Also, additional facilities were constructed in the North Sea Fleet at the Qinhuangdao (Chin-huang-tao) SAM/Cruise Missile Depot [] between 1976 and 1978. Prior to 1975, the Qinhuangdao Depot shared its facilities with a SAM (CSA-1) maintenance unit. No SAM equipment has been seen there since 1975; however, additional construction for STYX support began shortly after the SAM equipment was removed. In 1976, the East Sea Fleet's depot at Shangrao was relocated from a storage facility similar to the one presently housing the Ladong CM Depot to a new, extensive depot specifically designed for missile storage and maintenance. The present Ladong CM Depot has had little additional construction since it became operational in 1971. Relocation of the Ladong Depot into this new depot will be in line with the expansion of the other fleets' CM depots and reflects also the growth of the South Sea Fleet's missile forces, both land based and afloat.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) Selected KEYHOLE imagery acquired between [] [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] USN, Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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